

Toledo

People and Place

Location

Toledo is in Lincoln County 7 miles inland from the coast directly east of Newport and 130 miles southwest of Portland. Toledo occupies 2.17 square miles of land and 0.15 square mile of water. It is the only Oregon inland coastal community with a deepwater channel; the Yaquina River runs through the town and meanders west to the coastal community of Newport. Toledo's geographic coordinates are lat 44°37'18"N, long 123°56'14"W.

Demographic Profile

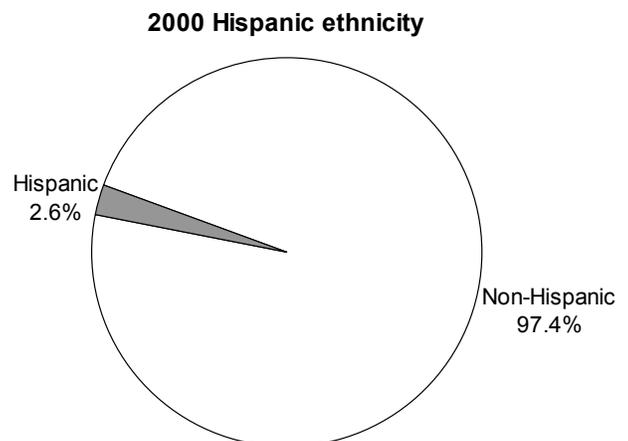
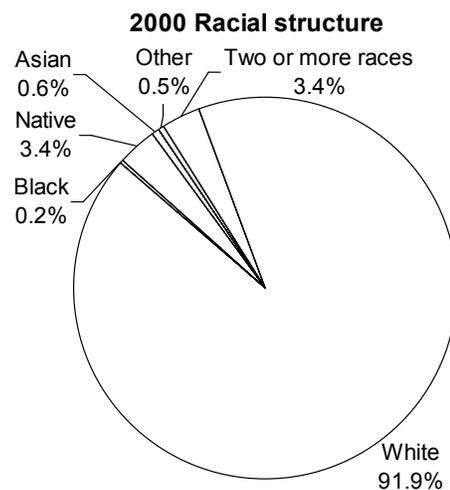
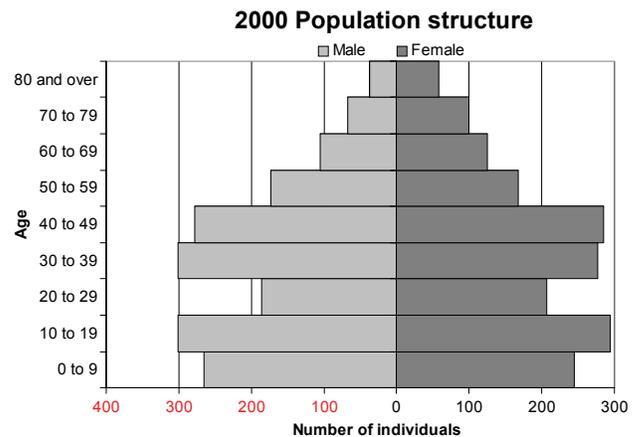
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Toledo was 3,472, a modest increase over the 3,151 in 1980. The gender composition was 50.7% female and 49.3% male. The median age was 34.4, slightly younger than the national median of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 77.1% had a high school education or higher, 14.2% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 3.7% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of Toledo's racial composition was white (91.9%), followed by American Indian and Alaska Native (3.4%), people who identified with two or more races (3.4%), Asian (0.6%), people who identified with some other race (0.5%), and black (0.2%). Ethnicity data indicate 2.6% identified as Hispanic. Less than two percent (1.9%) were foreign-born. The four most common ancestries were German, English, American, and Irish.

Approximately 85.5% of Toledo's population lived in family households in 2000.

History

Native people, including several branches of the Salish Indians (e.g., Tillamook, Nehalem, and Siletz), inhabited the Lincoln County area long before the arrival of Euro-American settlers. These groups hunted and fished throughout the region. Their access to the region's natural resources was diminished from the middle of the nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century by U.S. government efforts to open up lands to white settlers. Many of these groups were forced onto reservations in 1865. The Siletz Tribe is a consolidation of 30 to 50 Indian groups whose reservation lies



approximately 8 miles north of Toledo. The amount of land under tribal control continued to decline after they were forced onto the reservation in 1855. Today the tribe claims fishing privileges on central Oregon's marine and freshwater bodies. See the Siletz, Newport, and South Beach community profiles for more information on Native American history in the region.

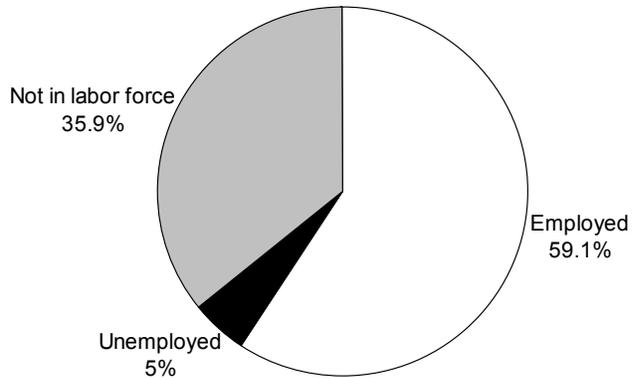
As Euro-Americans began to settle central Oregon, they soon moved to the Toledo area. George R. Meggison settled in Depot Slough near Toledo in January 1866, while the first Euro-American to settle in Toledo was John Graham, who arrived shortly after Meggison. Meggison and other investors built the Premier Sawmill on Depot Slough, producing 7,000–8,000 board feet of lumber per day. Boats loaded with lumber came and went regularly from the mill in the 1860s. Gold and coal were discovered in Toledo during this time. Although the discoveries brought an initial rush of settlers, neither ended up being very plentiful.

Toledo became the temporary county seat of Lincoln County when it was formed in 1893 and was chosen as the permanent county seat in 1896. In the early years settlement in Toledo was closely linked to the development of Yaquina Bay. The bay sits at the terminus of the Yaquina River, located nearby in Newport. In 1910 the Port of Toledo officially opened with the formation of a port commission. At the time shipments of rock, timber, and other sundry goods on the bay were growing by leaps and bounds. The port commission sought to deepen the channel running from Toledo to the mouth of the Yaquina where the bay meets the Pacific to allow larger, ocean-going vessels to load cargo in Toledo. This would eventually happen, but it would take the better part of the century to accomplish. The primary industries in the area during these years were logging, agriculture, and fishing. During the early 1900s locals caught salmon with seine nets and delivered their catch to various canneries along the bay.

In 1917 the U.S. Government gave Toledo entrepreneurs a boost with construction of the world's largest spruce mill to supply wood for the war effort. For the next few years Toledo bustled. At the time there was hope the channel would be dredged from Toledo to Oysterville, several miles down river toward the bay. With the end of the war, the need for spruce declined and the impetus for developing the channel waned. Toledo's economy slowed as the mill shut down for a short period of time. Private owners purchased and reopened the mill. The town gained an additional transportation corridor when the South Pacific Railroad Line placed a spur on the dock and provided service from Toledo to Albany.

The town's struggle for dredging carried on through the 1930s and 1940s. During this time lumber remained

2000 Employment structure



Toledo's major export. Although information on fishing in the Toledo area during these years is scarce, it was apparently a prominent activity in the 1940s as port officials cited the area's robust fishing industry when they pleaded for state-funded dredging to facilitate the travel of the many fishing vessels that visit and harbor in the area.

Toledo's designation as county seat did not go unchallenged. The now defunct town of West Yaquina challenged it in two elections and lost. Newport provided stiffer competition and was voted the county seat in 1954 after losing in two previous elections. Toledo is still considered the industrial center of Lincoln County due in large part to Georgia Pacific Corporation's purchase of Toledo's large mill in 1952. It is thought the presence of Georgia Pacific and its expanded operations gave impetus to a major dredging project (254,543 cubic yards) in 1957. In the second half of the twentieth century, Toledo became more dependent on the timber and mill industry. In recent years, port authorities have focused more on accommodating the area's recreational and commercial fishing industries. Today, Toledo is a historic town whose tourism, crafts, and antiques industries buttress the area's historic timber and fishing industries.^{1, 2, 3, 4}

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 59.1% of Toledo's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 7.8% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 35.9% were not in the labor force. Government was the primary employment sector (19.8% of those employed). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, fishing,

forestry, and hunting employed 4.3%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

Lincoln County's principal industries in 2000 were lumber, fishing, tourism and recreation, and food products manufacturing. Toledo's four largest employers were Georgia Pacific (paperboard mill), Wheeler Manufacturing Inc. (lumber), HP&H Logging (logging), and Yaquina Boat Works Inc. (commercial fishing equipment). These companies employed 600, 75, 10, and 9 respectively.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the per capita income was \$14,710 and the median household income was \$34,503, well below the national per capita income of \$21,587 and the national median household income of \$41,994. In 1999 19.3% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 Toledo had 1,474 housing units, of which 89% were occupied and 11% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 64.8% were by owner and 35.2% were by renter. Nearly 40% of the vacancies were due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Toledo incorporated in 1905 and has a mayor, city manager, and a city council with seven members including the mayor. The mayor and the council deal with policy issues while the manager handles day-to-day administrative and financial management duties. Toledo also has a planning commission that makes recommendations on proposed land-use actions.

Oregon has no general sales tax, but levies a 1% overnight lodging tax that funds the Oregon Tourism Commission. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in Oregon.

The nearest office of the National Marine Fisheries Service is 7 miles away in Newport, which also is home to the nearest marine resources program of the Oregon Department of Fish and a U.S. Coast Guard Station. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are held in Portland, which also has a district office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

Facilities

Toledo is accessible by land, air, and water. U.S. Highway 20 connects Toledo to U.S. Highway 101 at Newport to the west and to Interstate Highway 5 at Corvallis to the east. Toledo houses a small airport owned by the Oregon Aero Division. Two other airports certified for carrier operations are in South Beach and Corvallis, 7 miles and 47 miles away respectively. Portland International Airport is 132 miles from Toledo.

Toledo is in the Lincoln County School District which supports four public schools (two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school). There are also two private schools. The Central Lincoln Public Utility District provides electrical service to area residents, and the City of Toledo supplies water that comes from the Siletz River and Mill Creek. The city also administers wastewater treatment. The wastewater system has deteriorated over its 50 years of use and was undergoing a \$4.1 million upgrade in 2007. Toledo has a small medical clinic affiliated with the hospital in Newport. The nearest regional hospital is 51 miles away in Corvallis. The Toledo Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office administer public safety. Although Toledo has no overnight accommodations, nearby Newport has more than 100 hotels, motels, recreational vehicle (RV) parks, campgrounds, and inns. The Port of Toledo operates a small RV park 3 miles outside of town.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Toledo had no fish processing plants; however, Newport had at least four operating plants. Although no West Coast fishery landings were made in Toledo in 2000, community members owned 20 vessels, 15 of which participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Toledo residents that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/1/0, crab 0/10/0, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 0/13/3, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/5/1.⁵

In 2000 eight residents held eight permits for the federal groundfish fishery. The number of residents holding state permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic species 0/1/0, crab 0/9/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/12/4, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 3/5/3, and other species 1/0/0.⁶

In 2000 at least 27 permits were registered to Toledo residents, including 19 state registered permits. According to recorded data the number of state registered permits held by community members for each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/1/0, crab 0/2/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/0/7, shellfish 0/0/NA, shrimp 4/0/4, and other species 1/0/0.⁷

Sportfishing

In 2000 four charter businesses were headquartered in Toledo, while their vessels were harbored in Newport. Two sportfishing license vendors operated in Toledo in 2000, selling 906 licenses at a value of \$15,021.

Subsistence

Members of the Siletz Tribe and nontribal fishermen may utilize marine and stream resources for subsistence means in Toledo and the surrounding area. Under the trust doctrine, the federal government is charged to protect tribal resources and by constitutional mandate to protect natural resources. The government-to-government agreements made between tribal groups and the United States through treaties guarantee fishing rights on traditional grounds. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Toledo is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 9 community members held 11 state permits and 1 held a single federal permit.

Twelve permits (state and federal) were registered to community members in 2000. Residents held one crab License Limitation Program permit, one halibut Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit, and eight Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish CFEC permits.

In 2000 32 community members held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

Toledo residents purchased 30 Alaskan sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. Oregon Historical County Records Guide. No date. Lincoln County history. Online at <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/county/cplincolnhome.html> [accessed 1 February 2007].

2. M. Guardino III and Rev. M. Riedel. Sovereigns of themselves: A liberating history of Oregon and its coast. Vol. IV. Online at <http://www2.wi.net/~census/lesson37.html> [accessed 1 February 2007].

3. Port of Toledo. No date. Port history. Online at http://www.portoftoledo.org/home.cfm?dir_cat=15616&gal_col=3 [accessed 1 February 2007].

4. Toledo Chamber of Commerce. No date. Welcome to Toledo, OR. Online at <http://www.visittoledooregon.com> [accessed 1 February 2007].

5. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

6. See note 5.

7. See note 5.